

Touring Energy Efficient and Sustainable Rebuilding Projects in the Lower 9th Ward

On December 6th, 2008 the LSU Center for Energy Studies in conjunction with the Technology Assessment Division of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, conducted a bus tour of the Holy Cross and Lower 9th Ward areas of New Orleans as part of the 28th Annual USAEE/IAEE North American Conference. The United States and International Associations for Energy Economics are global organizations focused on the economic and environmental issues associated with the worldwide growth of the energy industry



Paula Ridgeway, Louisiana's State Energy Office Manager, welcomes everyone aboard the bus and explains the projects that LADNR has administered in the Lower 9th Ward since Hurricane Katrina



Charles Allen, Holy Cross Neighborhood Association President, provided personal insight into the challenges that the Lower 9th Ward has faced since the storm and the current struggles encountered while trying to get residents back into their community

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The bus was filled to capacity with conference attendees from around the world interested in observing first hand the efforts that have been underway in the New Orleans area in order to rebuild in a more energy efficient and sustainable way

The bus toured several of the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources' project sites and others to see examples of programs that promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable design in both new construction and historic renovations



The "SOLA in NOLA" Project was a program in which solar electric systems were donated and installed by Sharp Solar Electricity on 10 properties in the Lower 9th Ward and LDNR provided detailed home energy audits to the property owners to aid them in incorporating efficiency measures to stretch the performance of the donated solar electric systems

"Rebuilding Historic Homes Energy Efficiently" was a joint project by LDNR and the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans in which LDNR conducted detailed energy audits on several proposed PRC renovation properties. The audits were used to provide a duplicatable best cost scenario for incorporating energy efficiency measures into all of the PRC's historic reconstruction projects



The Global Green/ Brad Pitt Sustainable Design Project in which energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainability, and green construction practices are presented as a model for new home construction in the New Orleans area



The Brad Pitt "Make it Right" Project in the Lower 9th Ward is a new construction community where residents can choose from one of several green designs that support sustainable construction practices, feature renewable building materials, and produce homes that approach zero energy use